

After having done so, feeling compelled to say something I thought proper to allude to that circumstance by saying, that I found those prejudices stronger, even than I had anticipated — so strong, that I must relinquish my previous opinions, and the society of all those, embracing the same, or be forever deserted by him, who I had once looked up to as the highest source of all earthly happiness — a requisition, however painful, admitting of not a moment's hesitation on any part.

The rest is known to you, and I trust you will also understand why I should feel so reluctant to forward a letter which might dispose those who read, to think that I would allude to the conduct of Mr. Osborn unnecessarily, or in an indecise manner.

I will only add that when I wrote the letter, to which the enclosed is an answer, I had not the least idea that any one would see it, except Mr. and Mrs. Chester.

I wish you to read the enclosed, and do with it as you may deem most proper — and likewise to excuse my trespassing on your time and patience. —

I am, with all due esteem —

Yours respectfully —

Lucy C. Osborn.

Mr. L. C. Osborne

Feb. 9, 1844

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East Boston Feb. 7, 1844.

Mr. Phelps,
Sir,

I have long been wishing to converse with you concerning a letter which I received from Mr. Chester, in answer to my requesting a dismission from his church, and recommendation to yours - and have at length concluded to write a few lines expressing what I wish to say.

You will perceive on reading the enclosed, he had an impression that the one given me on a former occasion, was intentionally taken from me - which is more than I should feel either willing, or at liberty to assert - and certainly never intended doing so; but after having read Mr. Chester's letter, and trying to call to mind what I had written, that could have given such an idea - I recollected having inserted the following phrase - viz. When Mr. Osborn left, he took with him my certificate, which must be my apology for requesting another - without reflecting for a single instant, that Mr. Chester did not know that Mr. Osborn had always had it in his possession, and that consequently it might have been entirely forgotten.

Previous to my leaving Caraboga, - foreseeing the opposition with which I should meet on my return to Belfast, - having found Mr. and Mrs. Chester very accessible, I went to them as to a brother and sister, and made known my apprehensions, and the cause of them - mentioning that Mr. Osborn was naturally a man of very strong prejudices, and that towards the church in Belfast, they were particularly so, - owing to a dislike towards some of its members - and asked their advice, concerning the course of conduct I ought to pursue.